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ATLANTIS SUBMERGED SETTLEMENTS OF THE AZORES ARCHIPELAGO

Abstract

This paper examines the identification of several potential structures across the Azores archipelago, revealed through high-resolution RADAR imagery and bathymetric data provided by the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet). I will cover three of those structures in this paper. These formations display geometric and organized characteristics, suggesting a potential anthropogenic origin. Their spatial distribution and alignments bear striking similarities to Plato's descriptions of Atlantis, particularly references to an advanced civilization located on an island or group of islands beyond the Pillars of Hercules.

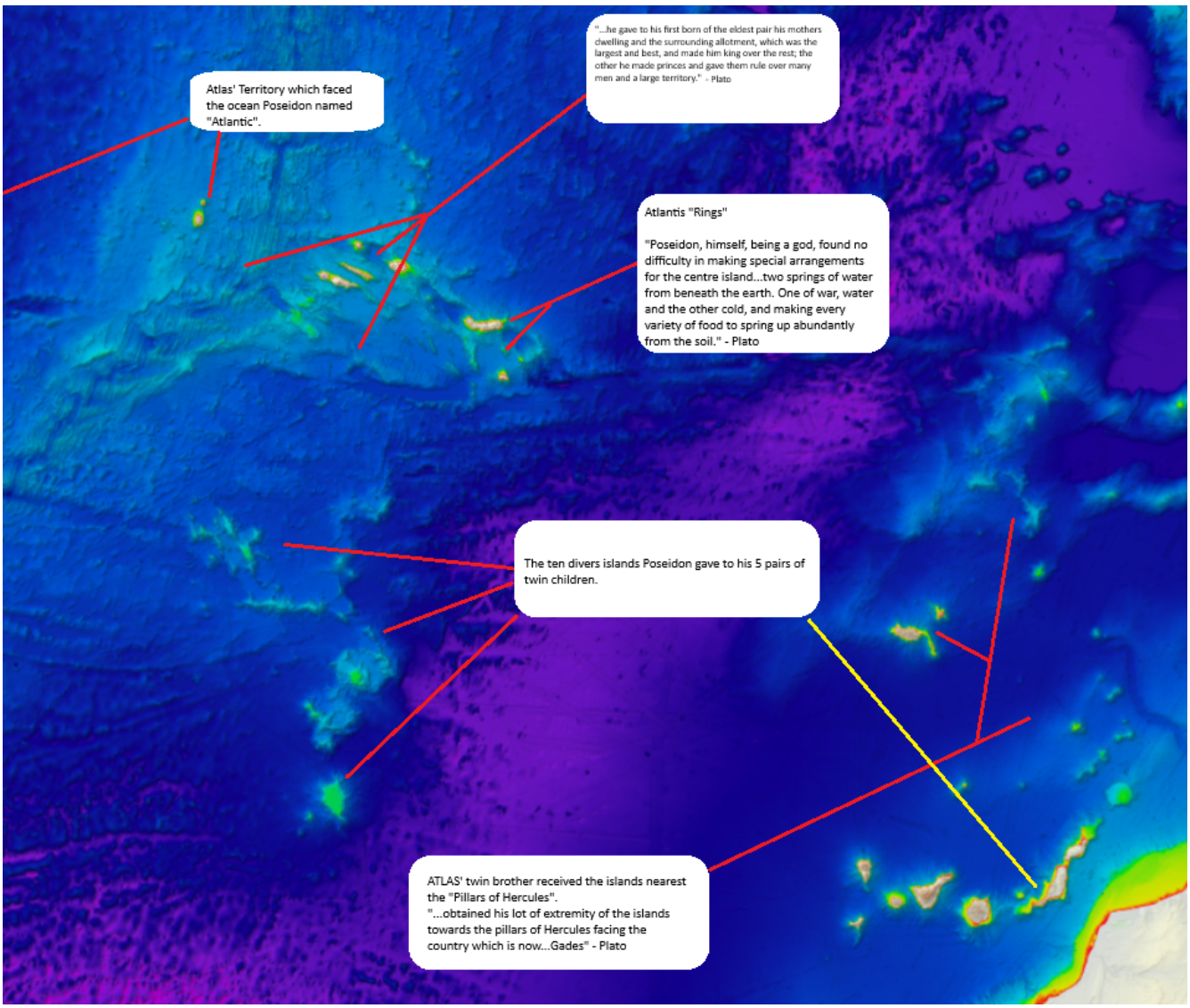
The Azores, a volcanic archipelago situated in the mid-Atlantic, have long been proposed as a potential location for Atlantis by various theorists, due to their geographic position and distinctive geological features. The structures identified in this research include pyramid-like formations and aligned mounds, some of which appear to form deliberate geometric patterns. These features raise compelling questions regarding the possibility that they represent remnants of a lost civilization predating recorded history.

Although natural processes provide a plausible explanation for these formations, their alignment with key aspects of Plato's narrative necessitates further exploration. This paper seeks to contextualize these discoveries within both geological and historical frameworks, leveraging advanced imaging and mapping technologies to investigate their origins and significance. The findings underscore the importance of interdisciplinary research in uncovering the truth behind these enigmatic structures and their potential links to ancient myths surrounding Atlantis.

Introduction

The Azores archipelago, a volcanic chain of islands rising dramatically from the mid-Atlantic, has long captured the imagination of researchers and explorers alike. Isolated far from mainland Europe, these islands possess a unique blend of geological intrigue and historical mystery, fueling centuries of speculation about their role in ancient human history. Among these speculations lies the enduring legend of Atlantis, the fabled advanced civilization described by Plato. In his works Timaeus and Critias, Plato speaks of a great island "beyond the Pillars of Hercules," home to remarkable structures and societies marked by geometric precision and architectural grandeur. Though Atlantis remains a mythic enigma, the distinctive geography and geology of the Azores offer tantalizing parallels that invite deeper investigation.

Modern technological advancements have added new layers of intrigue to the Azores. Through high-resolution RADAR imagery and bathymetric data provided by the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet), researchers have identified what appear to be several unusual structures scattered across the archipelago. Among these features are pyramid-like formations and aligned mounds, some of which exhibit striking geometric patterns. These formations, isolated beneath the waves and on remote islands, evoke the descriptions of Atlantis's sophisticated cityscape with its meticulous organization and monumental architecture. Could these be the remnants of an ancient civilization lost to time, or are they the products of the Earth's relentless geological forces?


Atlas' Territory which faced the ocean Poseidon named "Atlantic".
"...he gave to his first born of the eldest pair his mothers dwelling and the surrounding allotment, which was the largest and best, and made him king over the rest; the other he made princes and gave them rule over many men and a large territory." - Plato
Atlantis "Rings"
"Poseidon, himself, being a god, found no difficulty in making special arrangements for the centre island...two springs of water from beneath the earth. One of war, water and the other cold, and making every variety of food to spring up abundantly from the soil." - Plato
The ten divers islands Poseidon gave to his 5 pairs of twin children.
ATLAS' twin brother received the islands nearest the "Pillars of Hercules".
"...obtained his lot of extremity of the islands towards the pillars of Hercules facing the country which is now...Gades" - Plato

Submerged Structures near Ihas de Flores

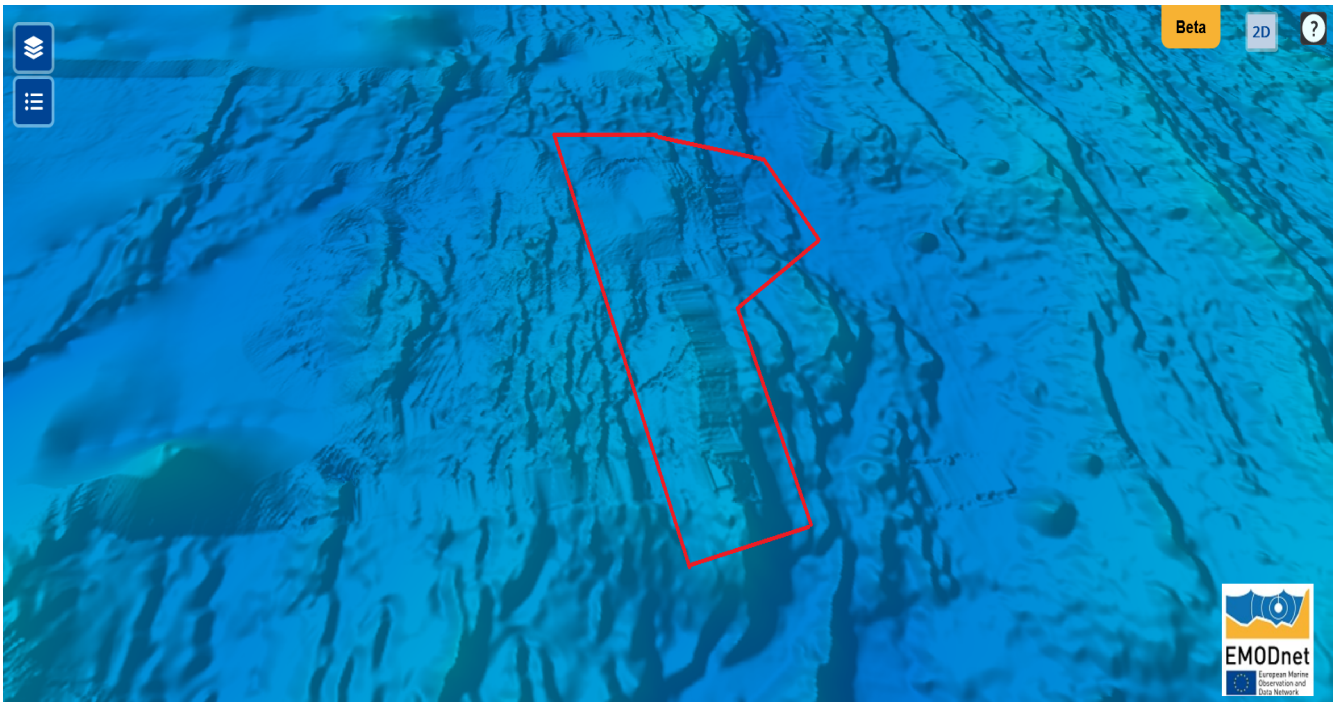
One of the most notable findings of this paper is the identification of a submerged site southwest of Ilha das Flores, Portugal, within the Azores archipelago, at coordinates 30.46748, 38.95600. The site appears to contain a central pyramid-like structure surrounded by distinct formations that may represent the remnants of urban or maritime infrastructure. The observed spatial arrangement of these features demonstrates notable parallels to Plato's account of Atlantis, particularly his description of a western region ruled by Atlas, the first king of Atlantis, situated beyond the Pillars of Hercules in the vast ocean named the "Atlantic" by Poseidon.

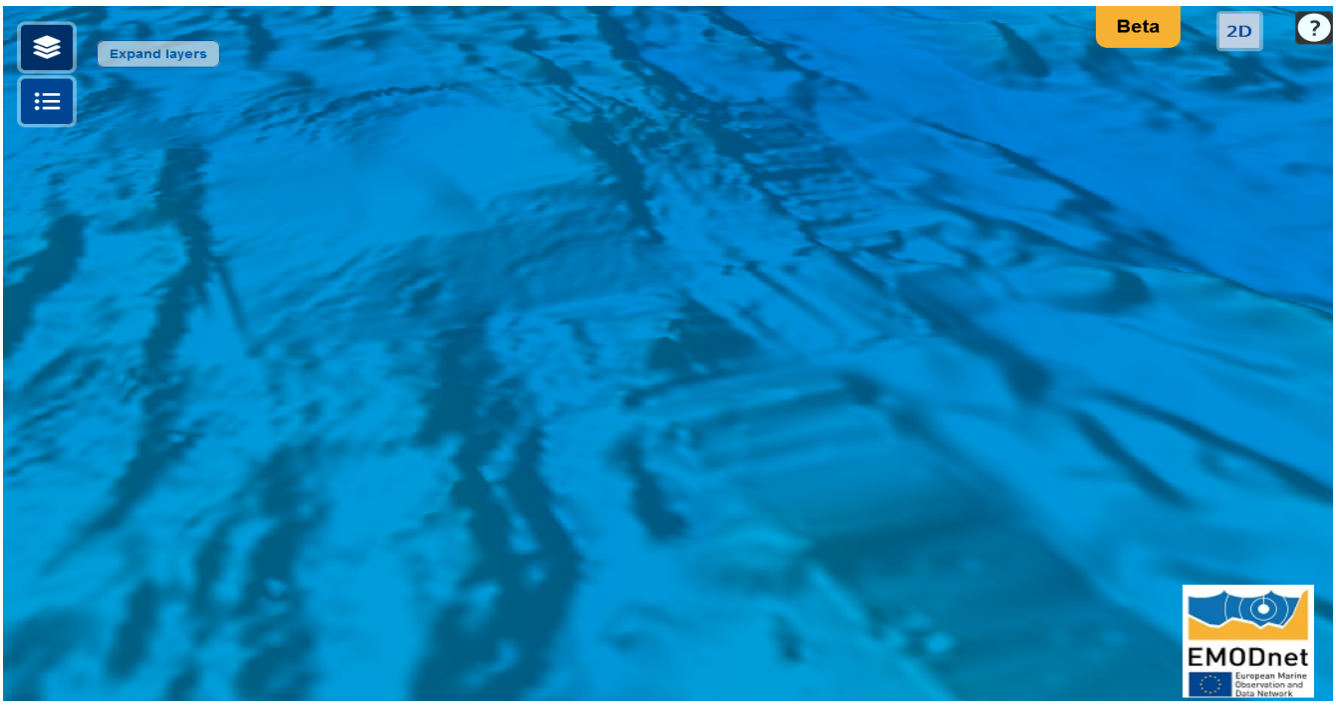
The central pyramid-like structure is prominently located within what resembles an organized settlement, reflecting the monumental and geometric precision described in Plato's Critias. In this work, Plato portrays Atlantis as a highly advanced civilization, distinguished by meticulous urban planning, monumental architecture, and harbors designed to support maritime trade and naval activity. Similarly, the submerged site exhibits features potentially consistent with such a description, including formations suggestive of harbor-like structures that may have served as docking facilities or trade hubs. The central pyramid itself may have functioned as a focal point for cultural or ceremonial activities, analogous to the temple dedicated to Poseidon that Plato describes as the centerpiece of Atlantis.

The geographic positioning of this submerged site further aligns with Plato's narrative. Atlantis was described as existing "beyond the Pillars of Hercules," commonly interpreted as the Strait of Gibraltar, in the western ocean named the Atlantic. The Azores, situated in the mid-Atlantic and surrounded by extensive oceanic basins, present a compelling geographical context, particularly when considering the possibility of significant geological or climatic changes that could have resulted in the submergence of landmasses. This correspondence between location and description strengthens the potential significance of the site in the context of ancient maritime civilizations.

While it remains possible that these features are the result of natural processes, the combination of the pyramid-like structure, the apparent organized layout, and their alignment with elements of Plato's descriptions warrants further scientific investigation. Advanced bathymetric analyses, underwater archaeological surveys, and sedimentological studies will be essential to ascertain whether these formations are anthropogenic in origin. Should evidence support an anthropogenic interpretation, this site may represent a significant discovery, potentially shedding light on the existence of an advanced civilization predating recorded history and contributing to the broader understanding of human cultural evolution.

This finding highlights the critical need for continued multidisciplinary research in the Azores region. Whether the site is connected to the legend of Atlantis or represents another previously unknown culture, its paper holds the potential to enhance our understanding of ancient maritime civilizations and the intersection of mythology and historical evidence.





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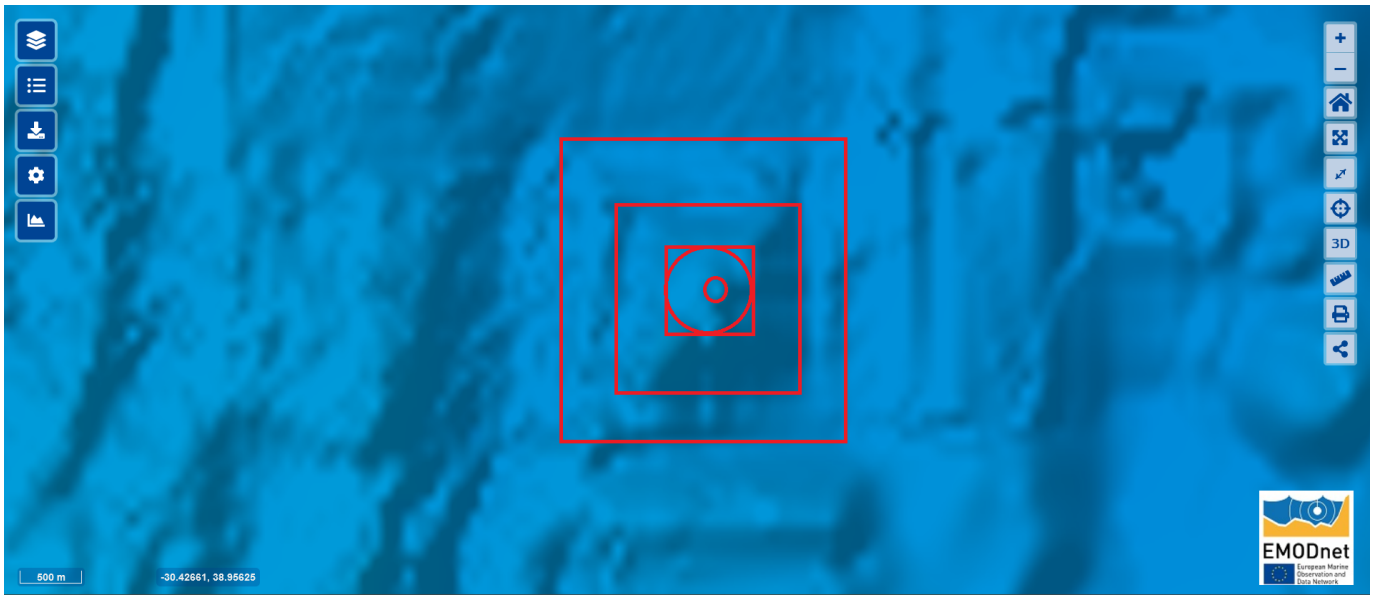
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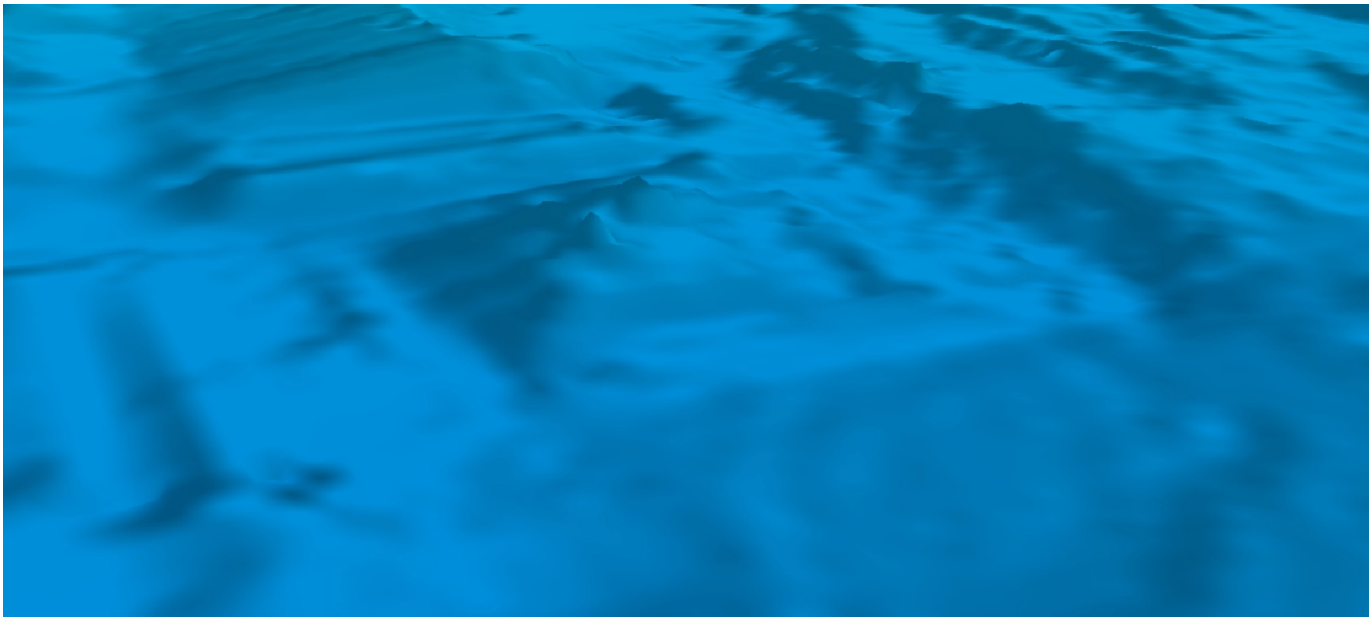

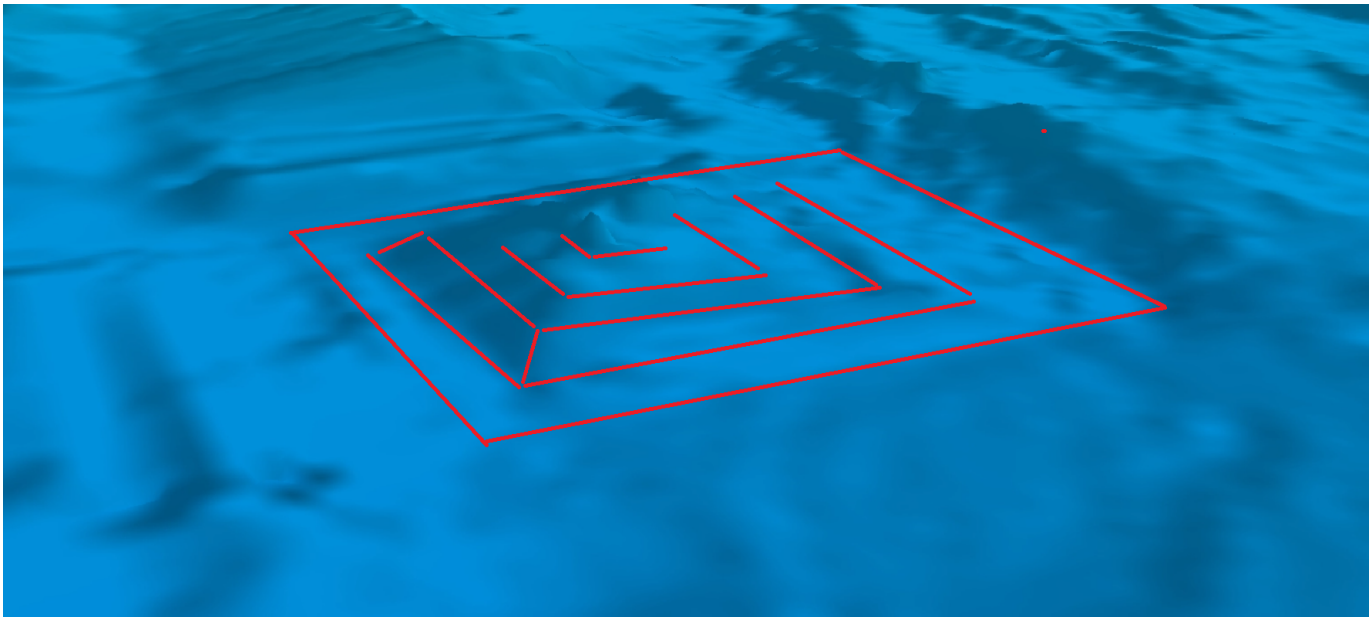

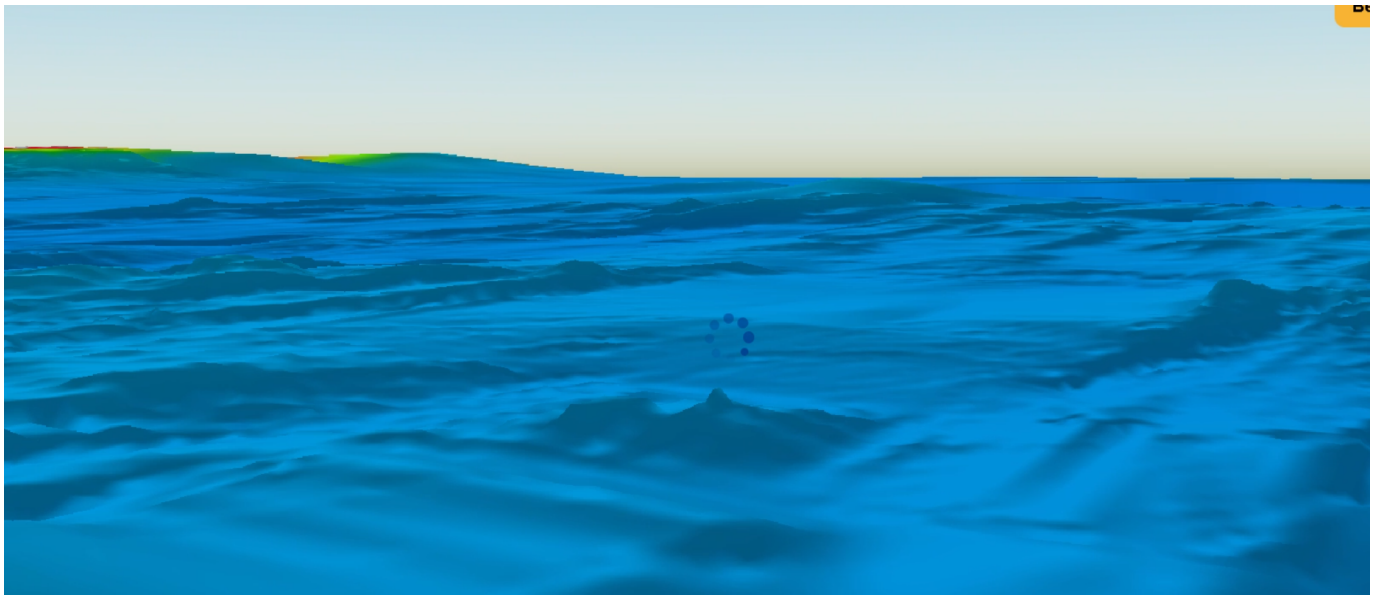

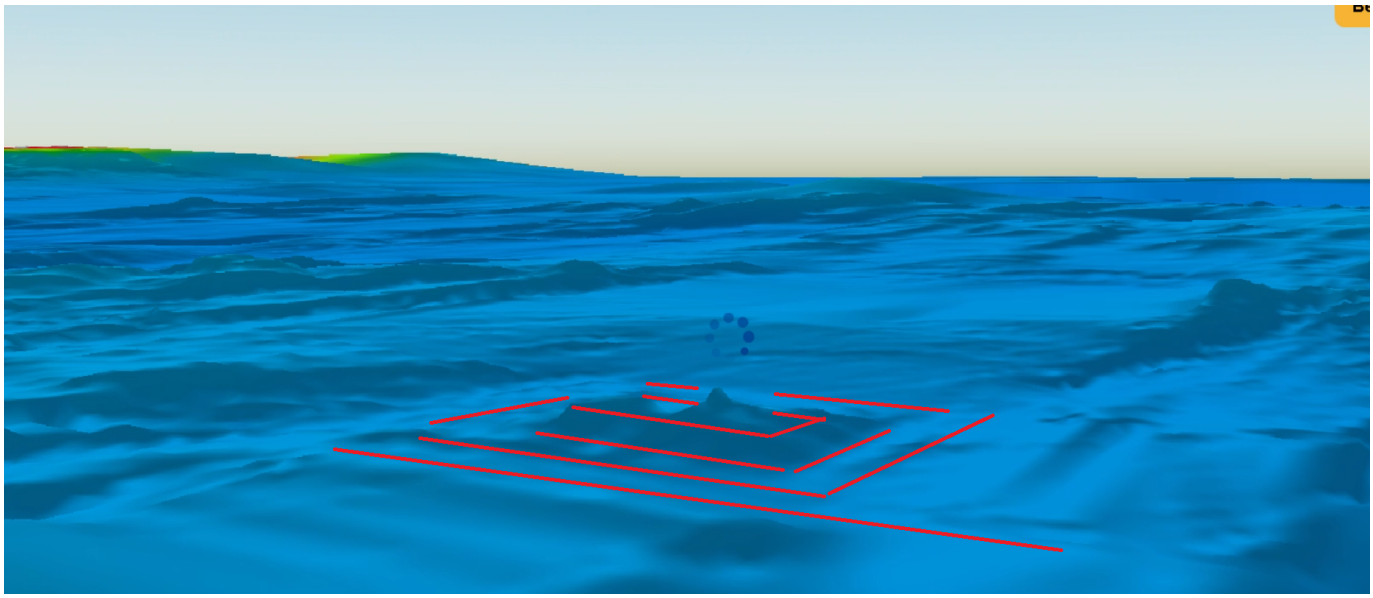

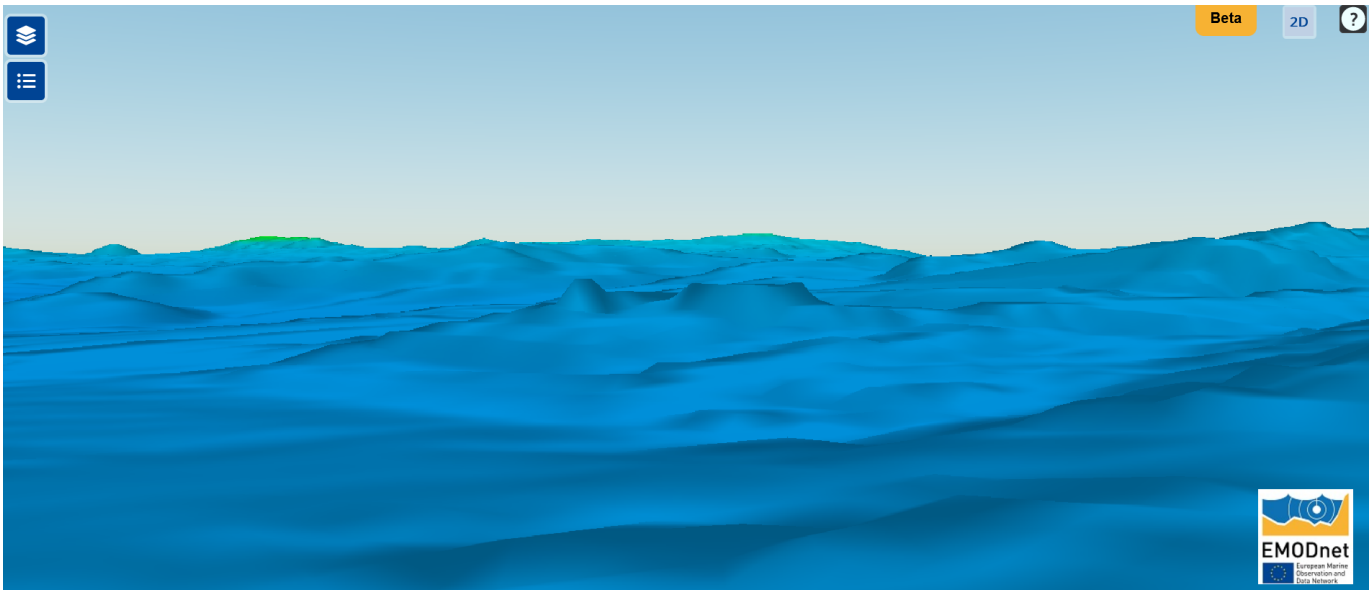
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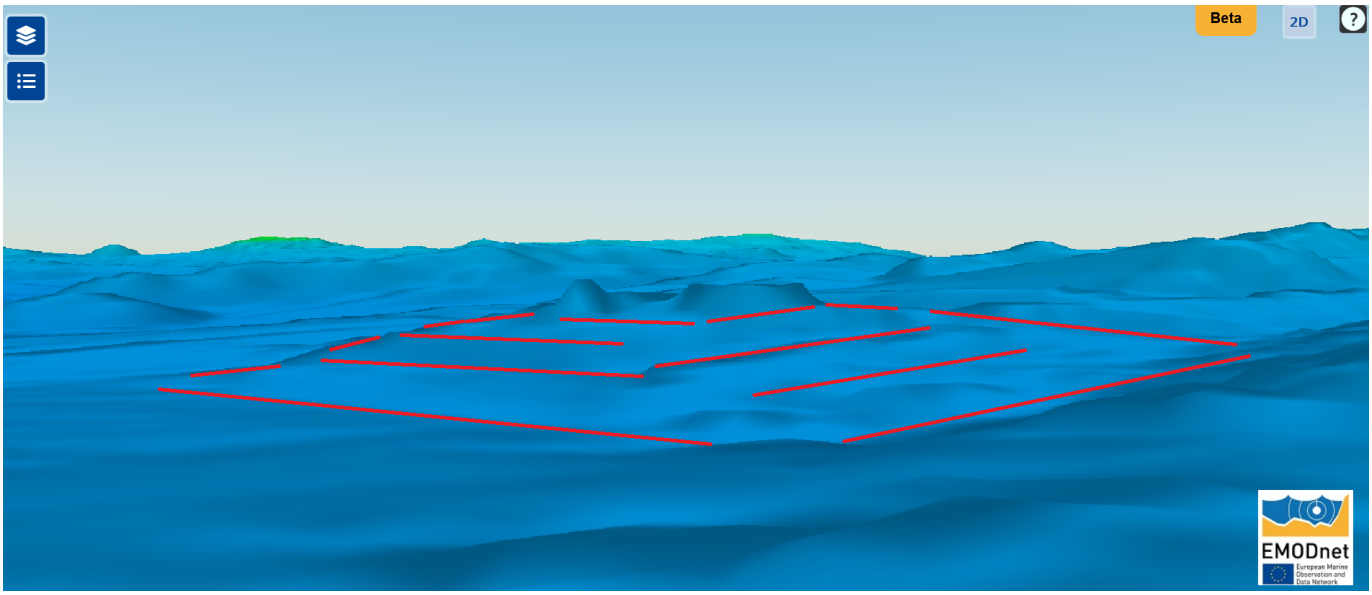
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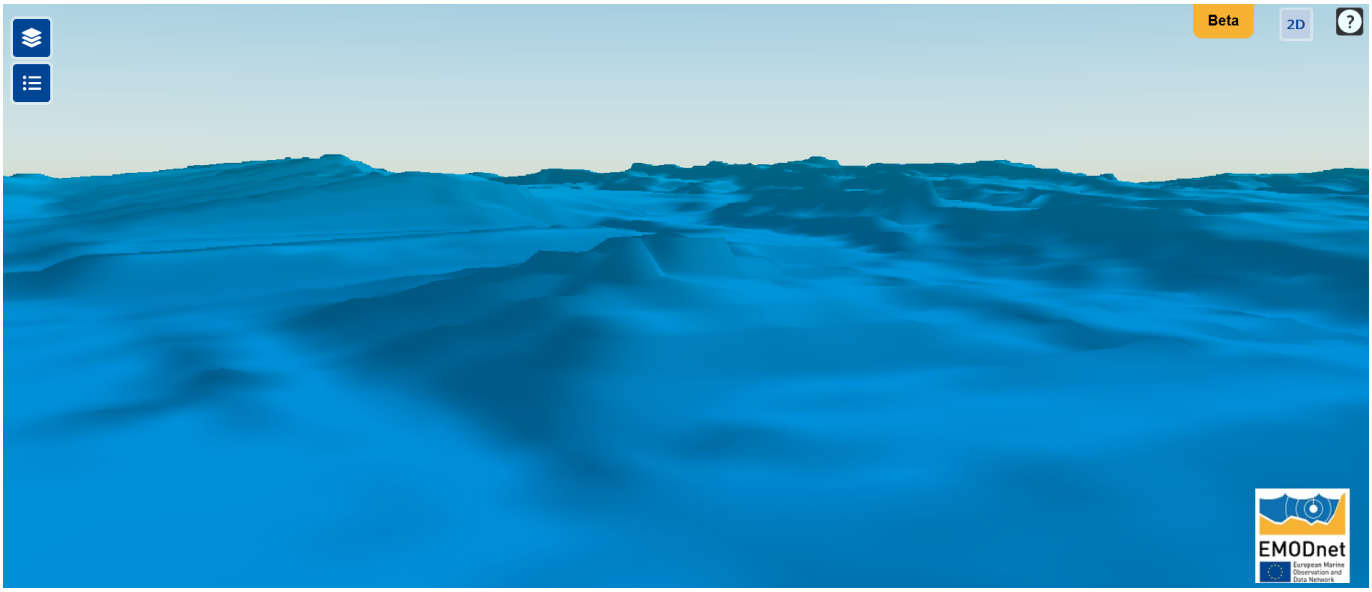
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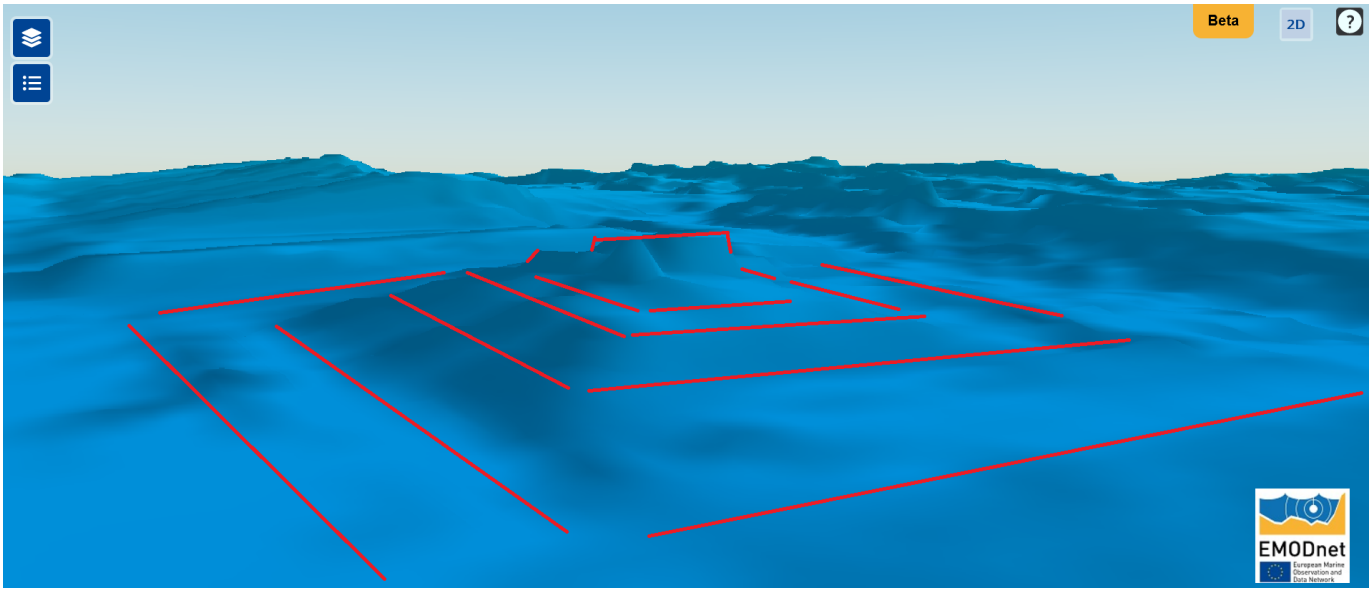
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Possible Submerged City at -30.07550, 39.49066

At coordinates -30.07550, 39.49066, approximately 1324 meters below sea level, a striking geological formation has been identified that appears to have served as a cliff overlooking what would have been the ancient waterline. Based on bathymetric data, the ancient shoreline is now at an estimated depth of 2411 meters, suggesting significant geological or catastrophic events that have reshaped the world since its use. On this submerged cliff, evidence points to what may be a man-made perimeter forming a near-perfect 90-degree angle, creating the outline of a square-like structure. This distinctive feature could represent the boundary of an ancient city or settlement, potentially another urban center associated with Atlas, the ruler of the western region of Atlantis described by Plato.

The depth of the structure suggests that it may have been above water thousands of years ago, during a time when global sea levels were significantly lower. The estimated depth difference of nearly 1100 meters between the current cliff height and the ancient waterline implies a dynamic history of tectonic activity, subsidence, or other geological events that submerged this area over millennia. These findings add credibility to the hypothesis that the Azores were part of a larger landmass or network of islands that could have supported human habitation in the distant past.

Future research at this site will focus on verifying the origins of the perimeter. Detailed analysis using underwater imaging technologies such as sonar, photogrammetry, and ROV (remotely operated vehicle) surveys could help determine whether the square-like formation was artificially constructed or shaped by natural processes. If confirmed as man-made, this discovery could provide additional evidence for the existence of a sophisticated civilization in the mid-Atlantic, contributing to the growing body of research connecting the Azores to Plato's Atlantis.

This submerged site, like others identified in this paper, underscores the importance of continued multidisciplinary exploration in the Azores. Whether these formations are remnants of Atlantis or another advanced civilization, they offer a window into a forgotten chapter of human history and a unique opportunity to bridge ancient myth with modern science.

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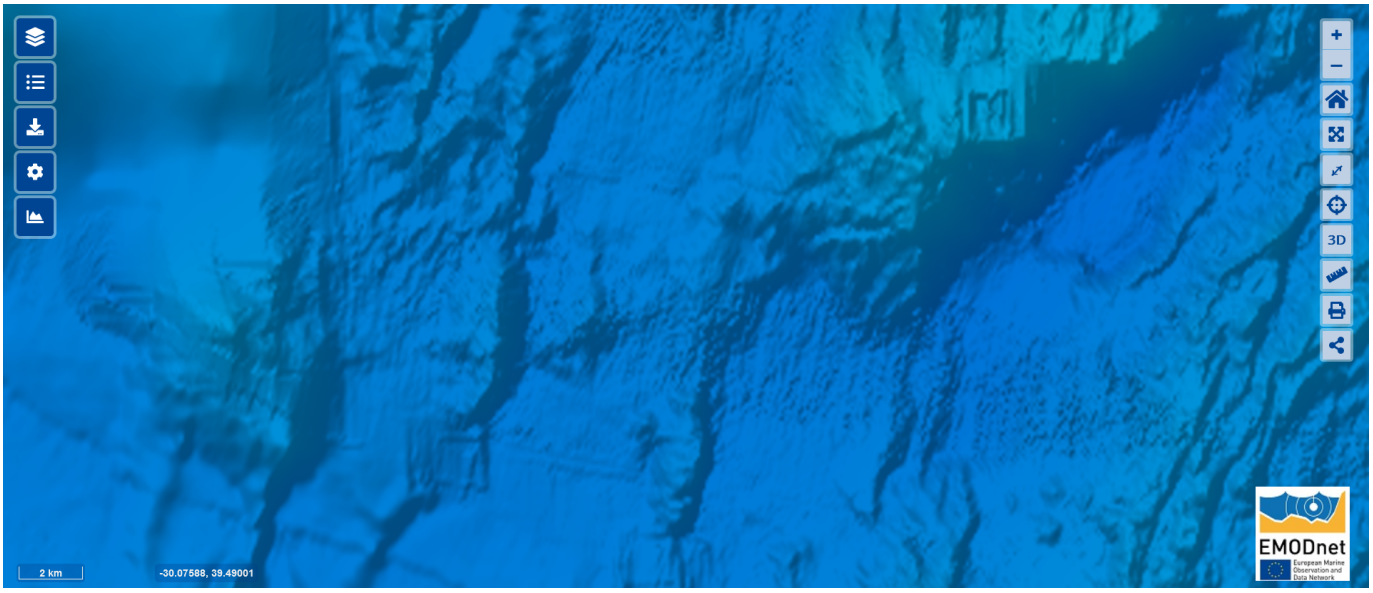
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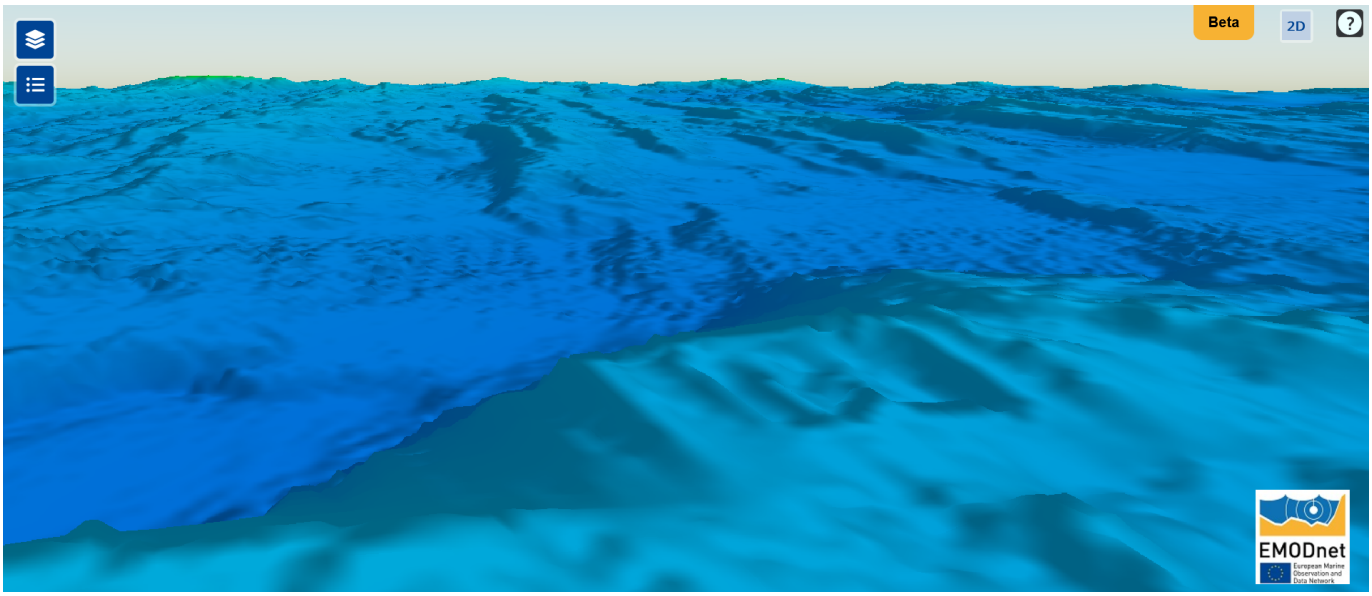
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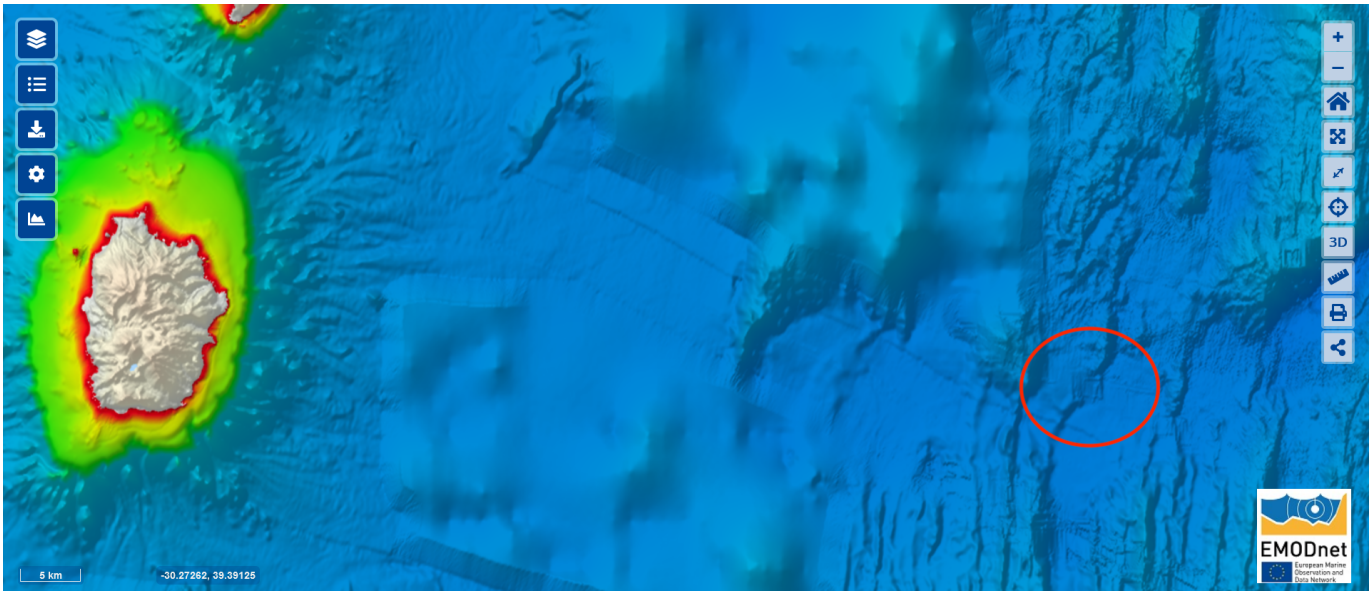
Potential Submerged Settlement at -30.26881, 39.39336

Another intriguing site identified during this paper is located at coordinates -30.26881, 39.39336, where a large squared perimeter can be observed near what would have been the water's edge during a period of significantly lower sea levels. This squared feature, notable for its geometric precision, suggests it could have been a man-made boundary, possibly delineating the borders of a settlement or a significant urban or ceremonial site.

The location of this perimeter is strategically positioned near the ancient shoreline, further supporting the idea that it could have been a coastal settlement designed for maritime activity. Such a site would have been ideal for facilitating trade, navigation, or defensive purposes, aligning with Plato's description of Atlantis as a seafaring civilization with well-planned cities along the water's edge. The squared boundary could signify the outline of a fortified city, temple grounds, or a structured harbor, consistent with the organized urban planning attributed to Atlantean society.

This site's proximity to other identified features within the Azores archipelago further reinforces the idea that this region could have been part of a larger network of settlements, possibly governed by Atlas as described by Plato. The consistent use of geometric layouts and the proximity to ancient shorelines suggest a shared cultural or technological framework, indicative of an advanced and organized civilization.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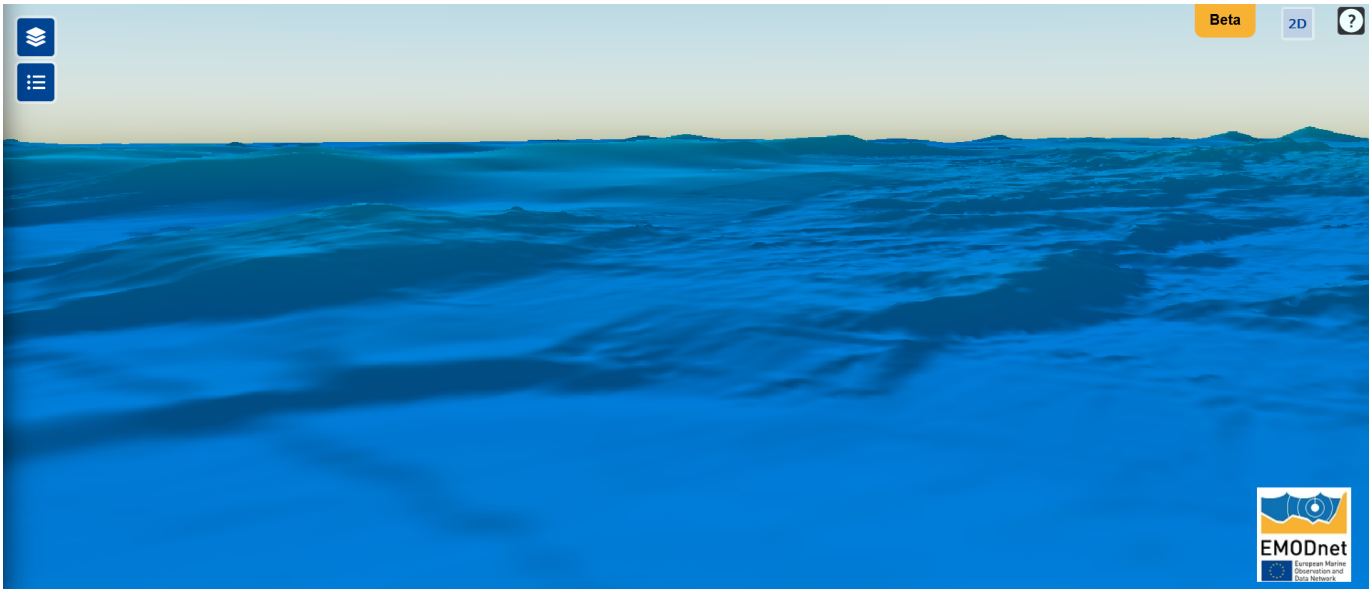
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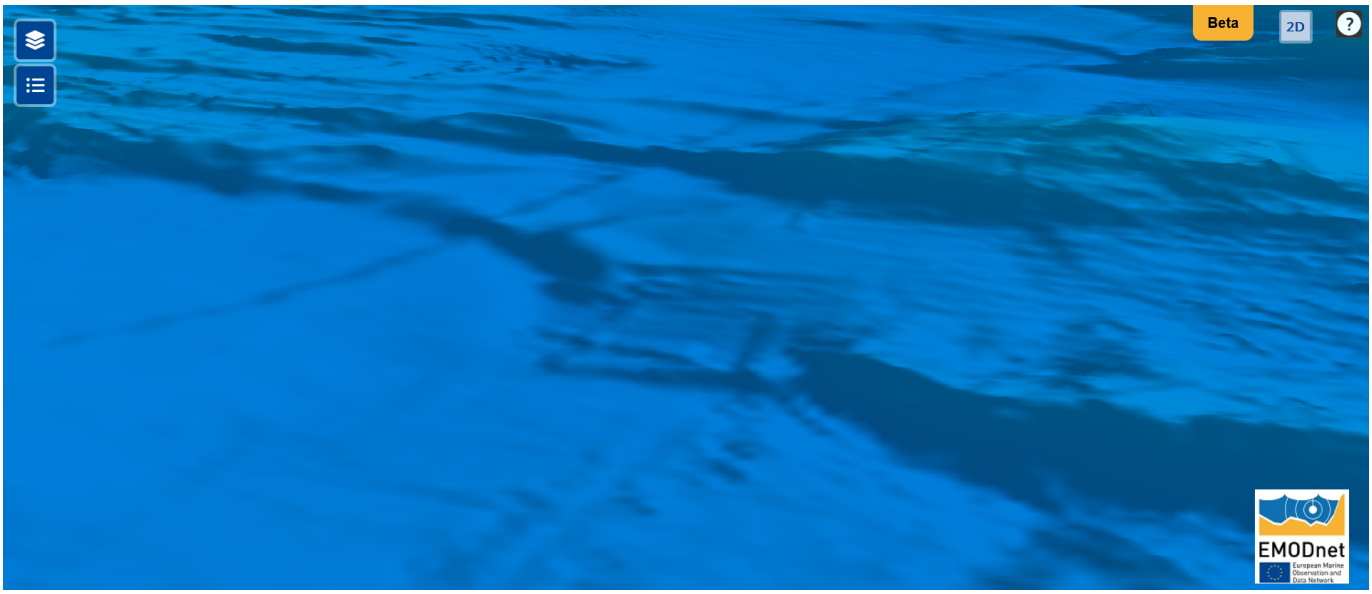
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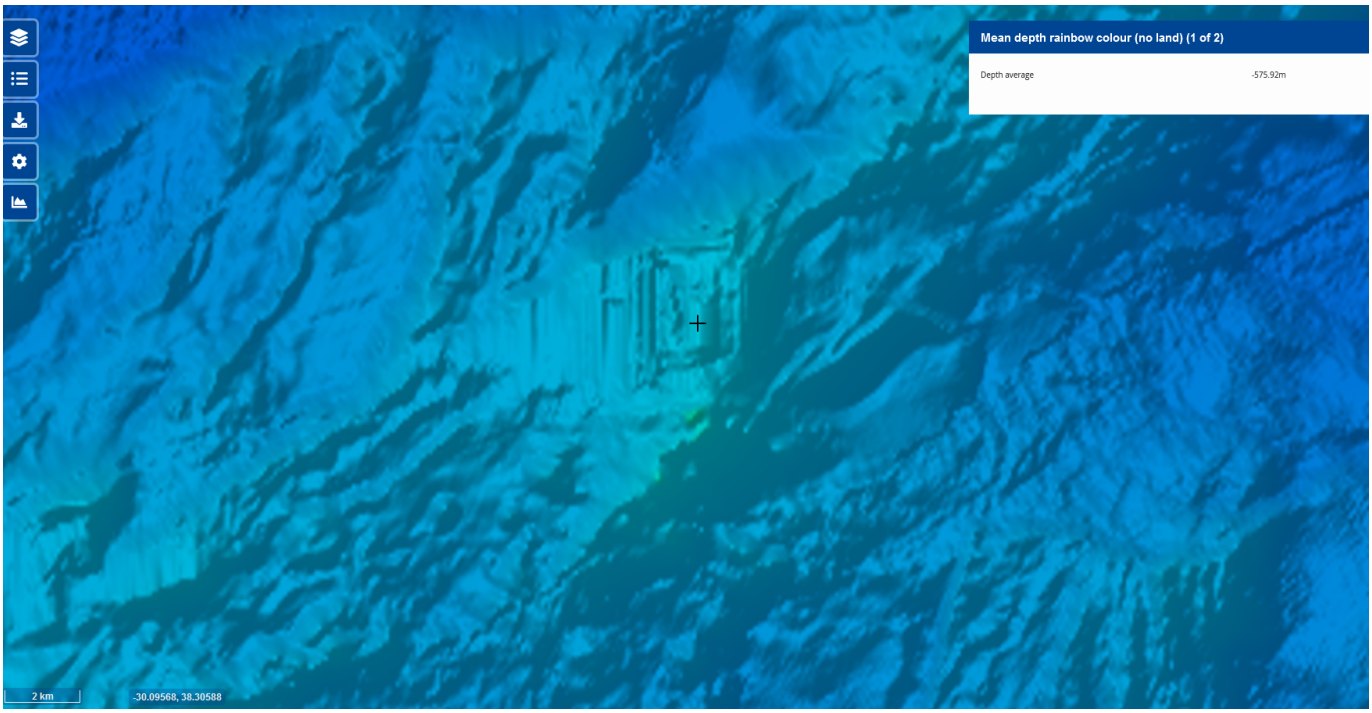
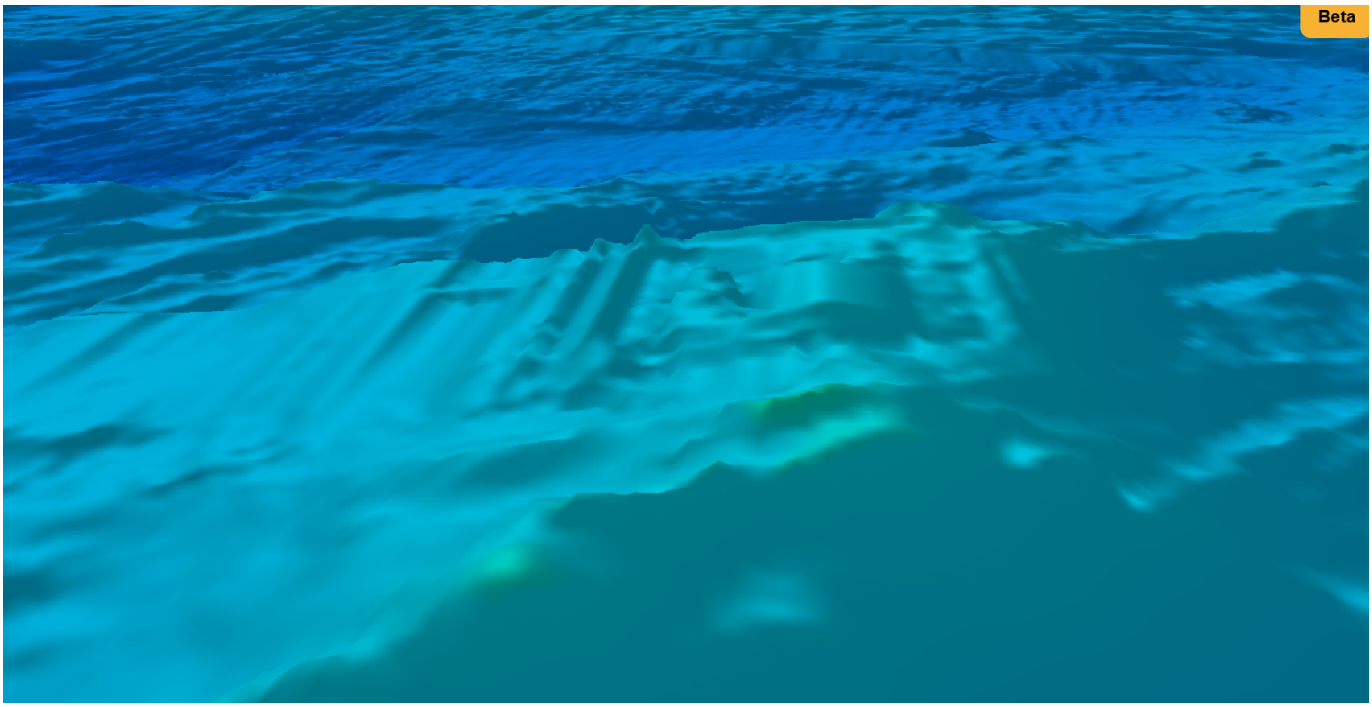
Submerged Settlement at Coordinates -30.09568, 38.30588

At coordinates -30.09568, 38.30588, another potential submerged settlement has been identified, situated atop a prominent mountain ridge. This ridge, rising from the seafloor, would have been above sea level in ancient times, providing a sweeping view of the surrounding waters. The strategic placement of this site suggests that it may have been a significant location for an ancient civilization, potentially serving as a settlement or lookout point that capitalized on the ridge's natural vantage.

The elevated location of the ridge offers a commanding view of what would have been a network of islands and waterways before the great flood or other events that raised sea levels. This advantageous position aligns with known patterns of early human settlement, where high ground was often selected for its defensive advantages and for its capacity to monitor maritime activity. The layout of the site appears to include features indicative of organized structures or foundations, pointing to the possibility of anthropogenic origins.

In Plato's account of Atlantis, the civilization was described as utilizing the natural landscape to construct cities that harmonized with their environment. The settlement at -30.09568, 38.30588 fits this description, with its ridge location providing both practical benefits and symbolic significance. The elevated position may have also served ceremonial or administrative purposes, making it a focal point for the surrounding region.

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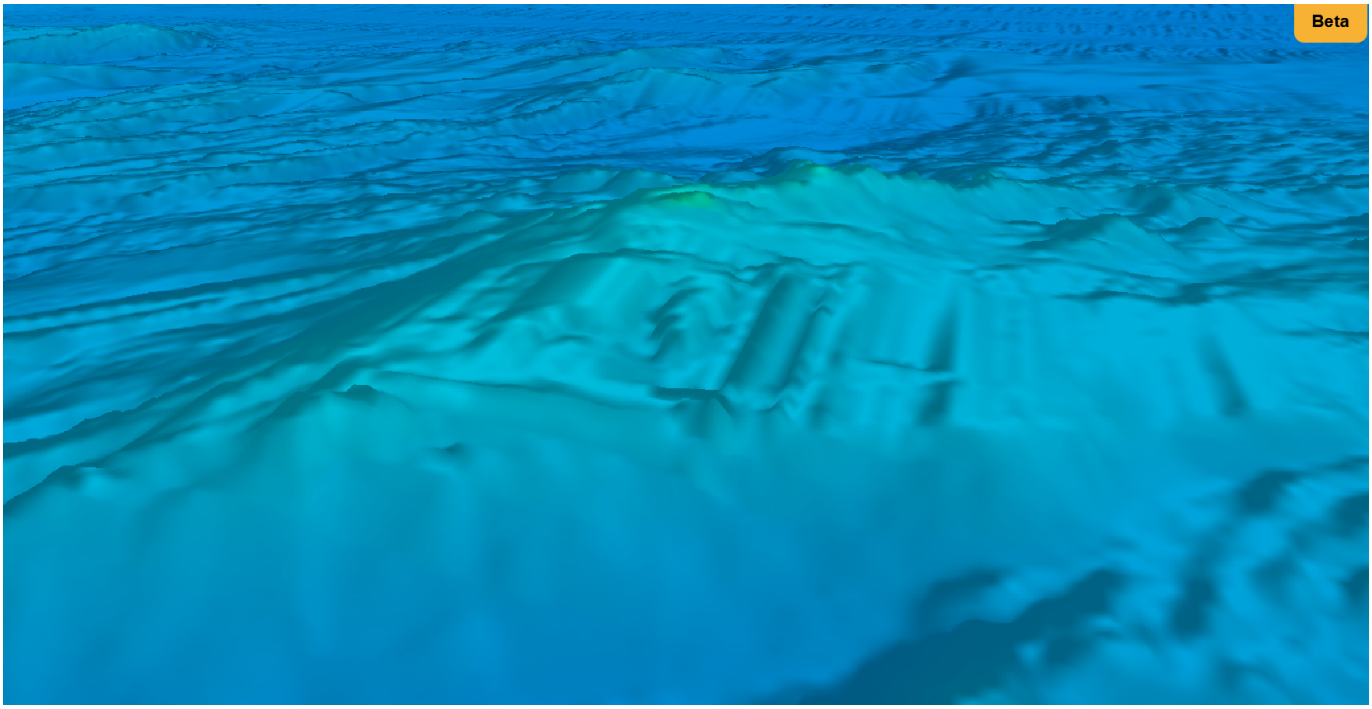
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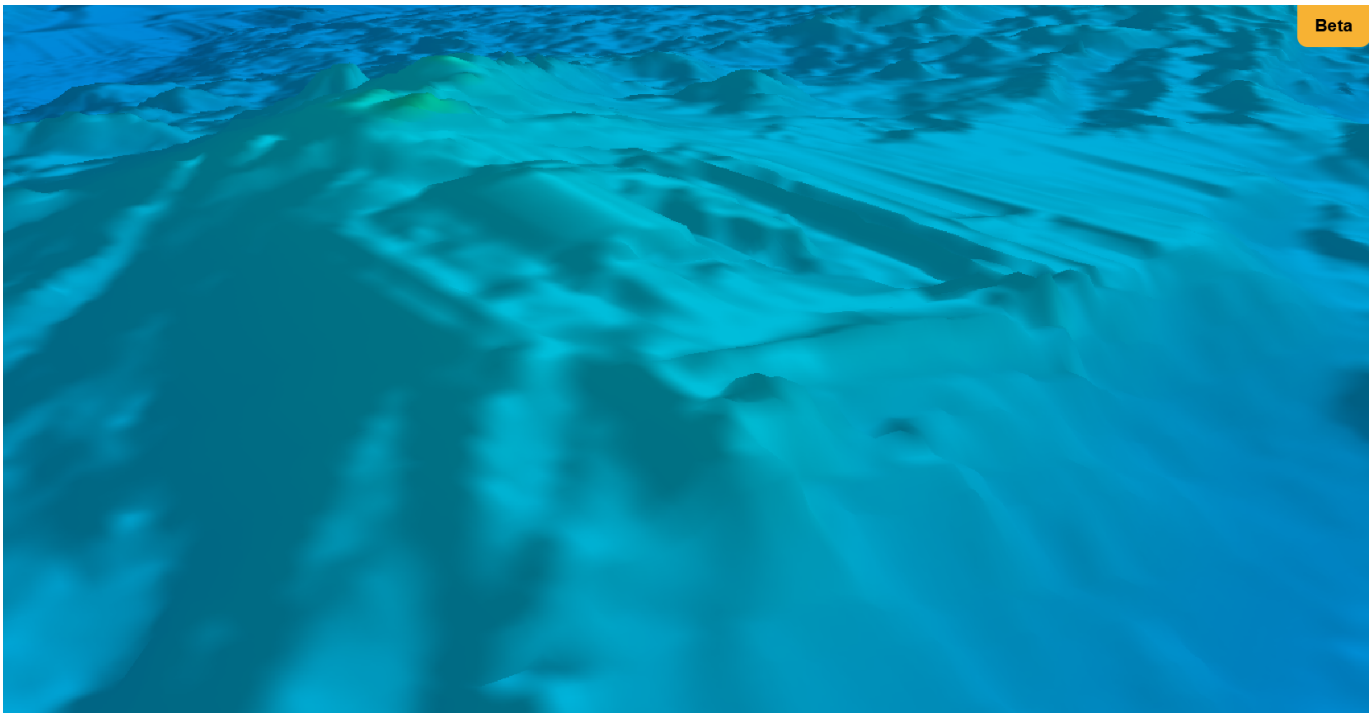
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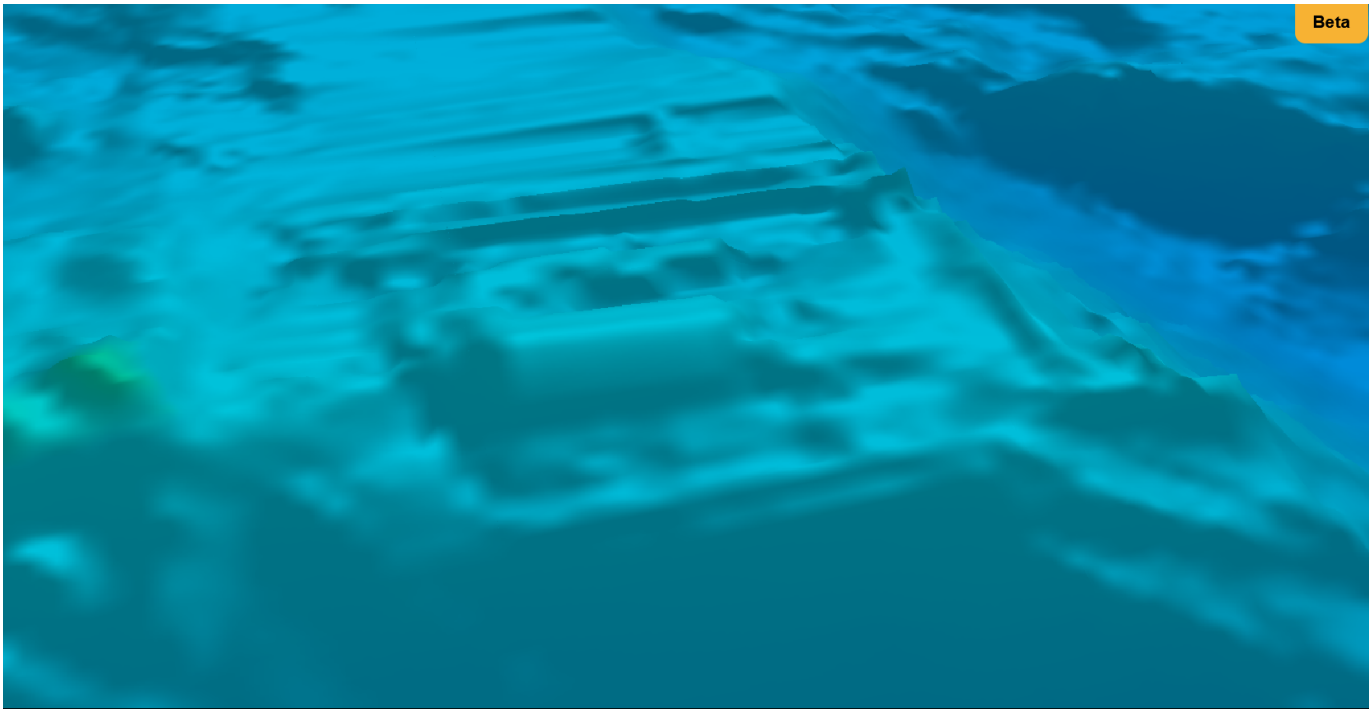
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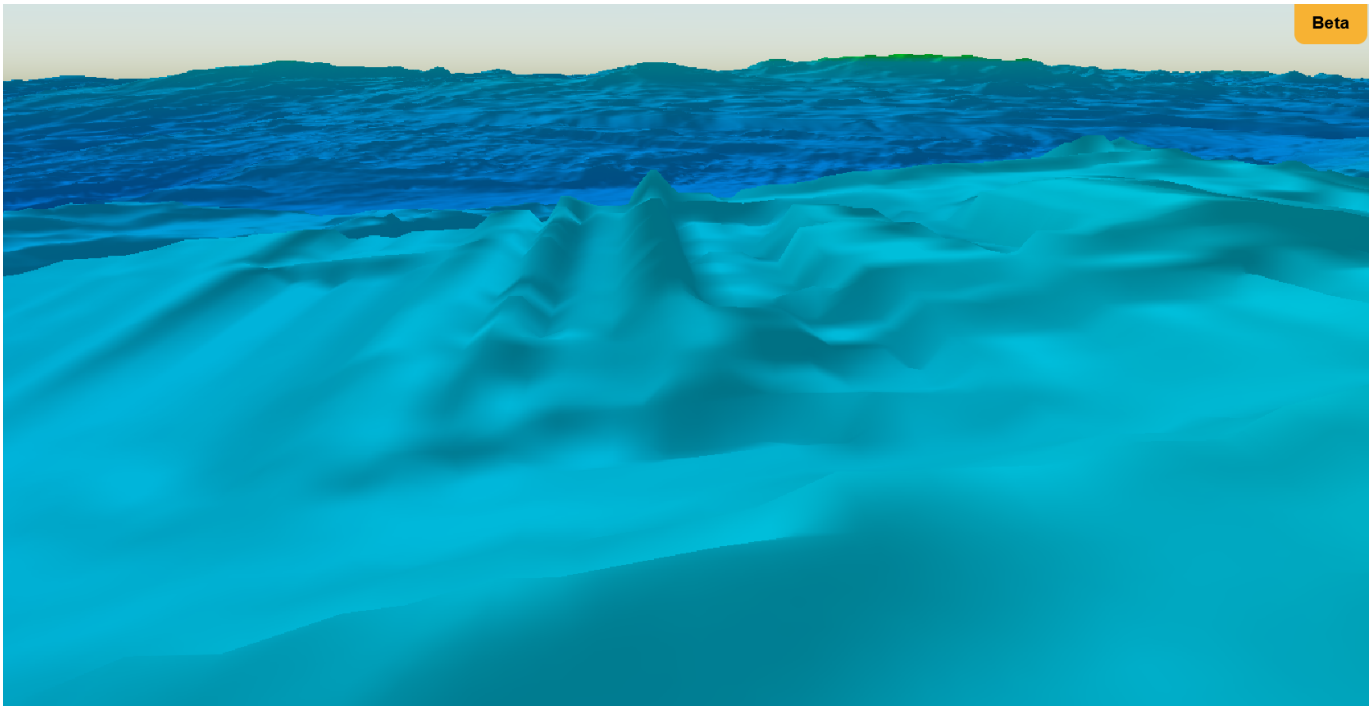
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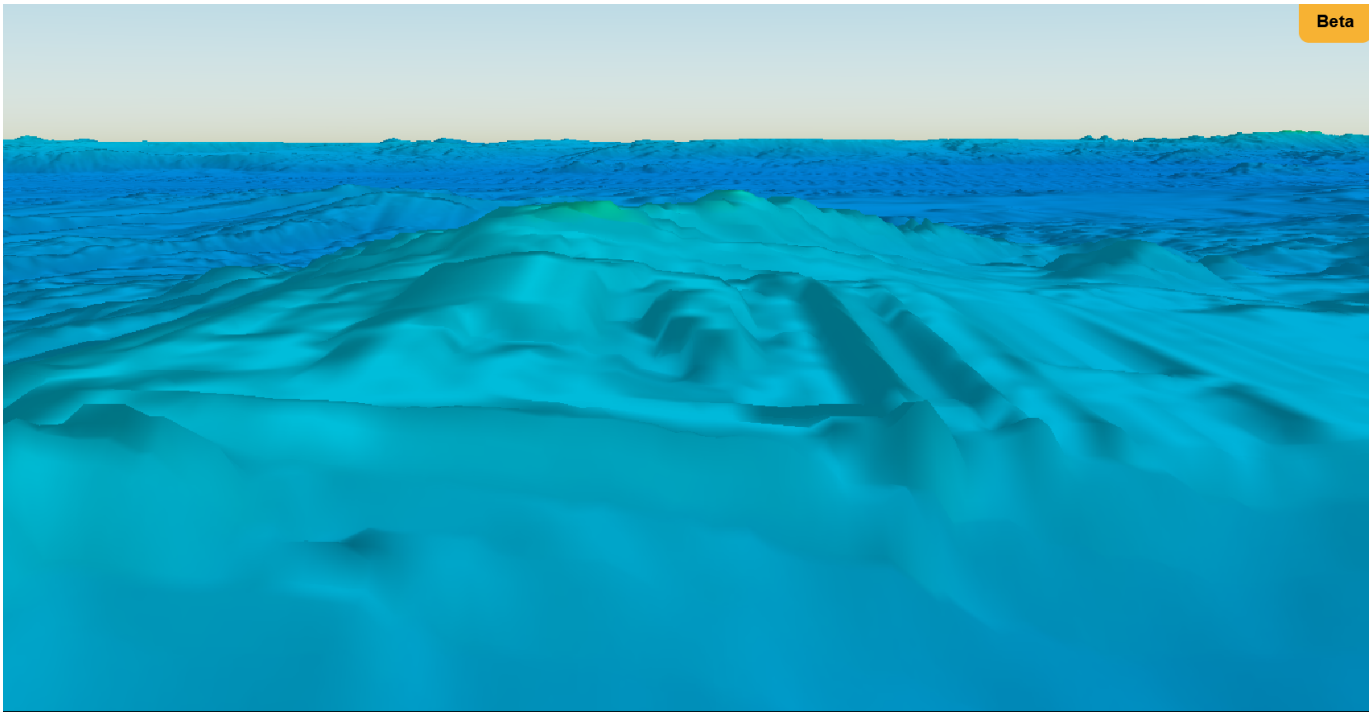
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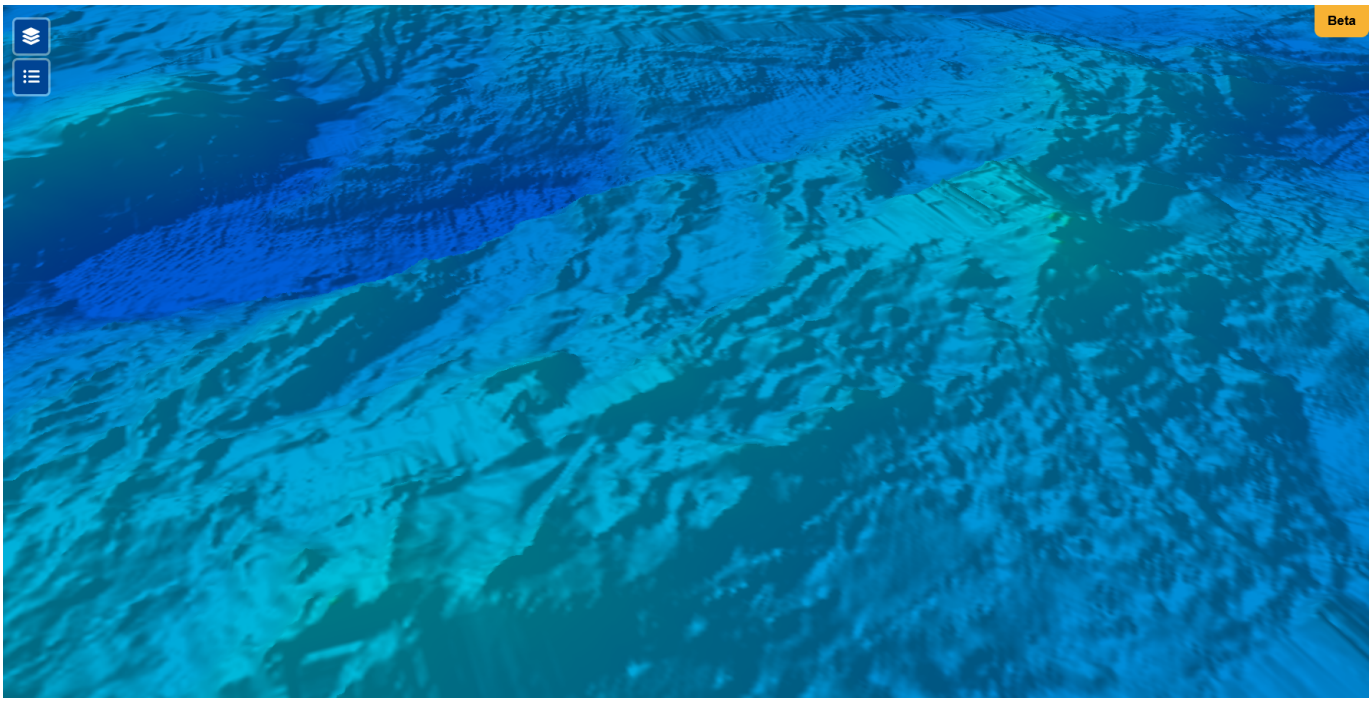
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Final Thoughts

The findings discussed in this paper offer compelling evidence that the Azores archipelago may hold the remnants of an ancient civilization submerged beneath the waves. Utilizing high-resolution imaging and data from the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet), multiple sites have been identified that suggest the presence of geometric structures, organized layouts, and strategic positioning—all hallmarks of advanced settlement planning. These formations, ranging from submerged pyramids and squared perimeters to ridges crowned with what appear to be settlements, evoke striking parallels to Plato's descriptions of Atlantis as a sophisticated maritime civilization with interconnected cities and monumental architecture.

The sites explored at 30.46748, 38.95600, the cliff with a 90-degree perimeter at -30.07550, 39.49066, the ridge-top settlement with a diagonal structure at -30.26881, 39.39336, and the elevated settlements at -30.68159, 37.56635, and -30.09568, 38.30588, collectively suggest that the Azores archipelago may once have been part of a larger landmass. These findings lend weight to the possibility of a prehistoric maritime culture that utilized the natural geography to build settlements that were both functional and symbolic. The strategic positioning of these sites along ancient shorelines or atop high ridges suggests a deep understanding of geography, architecture, and urban planning.

While the features observed at these locations may have natural explanations, their geometric precision and alignment with historical descriptions demand further investigation. Plato’s Atlantis is often dismissed as myth, but these findings highlight how myth and archaeology can intersect, challenging traditional assumptions about human history. If these formations are indeed anthropogenic, they could represent one of the most significant discoveries of submerged archaeology in the Atlantic, potentially rewriting our understanding of prehistoric civilizations and their capabilities.

The ongoing research into these sites will focus on verifying their origins through multidisciplinary approaches, including bathymetric mapping, photogrammetry, and underwater archaeological surveys. Sediment analysis and geological studies will also be critical in reconstructing the environmental conditions and timeline of their submergence. With each new discovery, the narrative of the Azores as a possible center of ancient maritime activity becomes increasingly plausible.

Ultimately, the Azores hold the promise of unlocking secrets that bridge ancient myth and modern science. Whether these sites represent remnants of Atlantis, an unknown culture,

or natural phenomena, they remind us of the vast, untold stories hidden beneath the oceans. As exploration continues, the findings from this paper serve as a foundation for further investigation, ensuring that the mysteries of this enigmatic region will continue to inspire and intrigue for generations to come.

Special Thanks

European Marine Observation Data Network